

Human-environment Interactions: The Sociological Perspectives

O.A. Ogunbameru

*Department of Sociology and Anthropology Obafemi Awolowo University,
Ile-Ife, Nigeria*

KEYWORDS Functionalism. Conflict. Symbolic Interactionism. Ecological Environment.

ABSTRACT Writers on ecological environment have concentrated mainly on the political and economic effects of human populations on the natural environment. Most of the write-ups have not looked beyond outer appearances especially, at what lies beneath. This paper looks beyond what lies beneath by using sociological thinking and information to explain the human environment interactions. The paper uses three prominent sociological perspectives – *functionalism*, *conflict*, and *interactionism*, to examine the interactions. Functionalists identify desertification, deforestation, oil spillage, gas flaring and sea erosion as the source of environmental problems. To overcome these problems, man should be sensitive to both the manifest and latent consequences of their actions on the environment. Conflict theorists identify the inequality in the distribution of the world's resources as the sources of environmental problems. To overcome these problems, the government and oil companies should take bold steps to arrest deforestation, oil spillage, gas flaring and sea encroachment. Interactionists identify human actions and inactions as the sources of environmental problems. To overcome environmental problems, political actions involving human judgements, decisions, and choices, should be taken.

[Home](#)

[Back](#)
